MEDT 6465 REVIEW 3: MIDDLE GRADES FICTION

Use the fiction review guidelines below (from School Library Journal) as you evaluate titles for the fiction reviews (media log reviews 2, 3, & 4).

Your name
Godwin, Megan

Title of book being reviewed
When You Reach Me

Author of book being reviewed
Rebecca Stead

Publisher, Publication date
Random House, 2009

ALA or other award list on which this title was found (if applicable)
Newberry 2010

Plot: type of story (fantasy, mystery, adventure, etc.)
Science fiction and mystery

Plot: setting
New York City

Plot: period
1979

Plot development
State in the review and note briefly here
Excellent Good Fair Poor

Character development
State in the review and note briefly here
Excellent Good Fair Poor

Integration of background and any other factual material
State in the review and note briefly here
Excellent Good Fair Poor

Language and writing style
State in the review and note briefly here
Excellent Good Fair Poor

Creation and sustaining of mood
State in the review and note briefly here
Yes No
If the story has a dominant theme, is it too obviously superimposed on the plot?
State in the review and note briefly here
    Excellent    Good    Fair    Poor

How does the story compare with others?
State in the review and note briefly here
    Distinguished
    Above average
    Average
    Below average

Grade level at which most children will read this book or enjoy hearing it
Note at head of review
Grades 5-8

Is this interesting enough to recommend to reluctant/slow readers?
Yes

Note in the review the quality and type of illustrations, any unusual format or print, etc. (optional)
i.e., if it applies

Recommendations
    First purchase
    For general purchase
    Strictly additional
    Not recommended (this should be implicit in your review so that the words "not recommended" are not necessary.)

Do you feel this book is outstanding?
Star books distinctly above average in quality, appeal, and/or usefulness. If you have given the book an outstanding review and yet do not feel it should be starred, please explain.
Yes    No

Additional comments related to "How does the story compare with others of its general type." Give specific comparisons, if possible, including author, title, and publication date.

Additional comments related to "Do you feel this book is outstanding?"
Miranda is a twelve year old girl who lives with her mother in a New York apartment in 1979. Miranda is in love with the book *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L’Engle. Miranda has one friend who she grew up with, Sal. Sal stops talking to her one day when he was punched by a boy named Marcus on the street as they were trying to pass the homeless “laughing man” on their way home from school one day. This act sets off a series of events that mysteriously have Miranda in a new world with new friends and a secret that is given to her. A secret that Madeleine L’Engle herself would have marveled at. The book’s chapters are based on clues from the $20,000 Pyramid television game show that her mom is going to be a contestant on in a few months. Miranda and her mother have a close relationship, but because of Miranda’s mothers work schedule she is what the book calls a “latch key kid”, so Miranda has to take care of herself until her mom gets home from work. Lots of interesting things happen in that space of time for Miranda. The book is a real page turner and keeps the reader interested throughout the story. So many questions need to be answered about Miranda’s secret and all the mysterious pieces of her secret little by little begin to fall into place for both Miranda and the reader. Like the clues from the game show, all the clues of the book tell a wonderful story and tie all the characters together in a wonderful neat package. One walks away from this book feeling whole and mind boggled at how smart the book is. I would recommend this title as a first choice.